THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VID YACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Yes, Sir. A Committee on Pricing of Irrigation Water has been constituted by the Planning commission, Government of India under the chairmanship of Dr. A Vaidyanathan, formerly Member, Planning Commission.

(b) and (c). The Committee has been constituted on 23rd October, 1991. The terms of reference of the said Committee are given in the statement enclosed.

(d) The Committee is expected to submit its report by the end of July, 1992.

STATEMENT

Terms of reference of the Committee on Pricing of Irrigation Water constituted by the Planning Commission vide Notification No. 16 (134)/90-I&CAD dated 23rd October, 1991:-

(i) To review the existing water rate structure and the extent of subsidy in Government and public sector irrigation projects.

(ii) To suggest:

(a) the norms for fixing water rates;

(b) the norms for cost escalation in O&M component of economic water rates;

(c) the norms for conversion of volumetric supply of water rates of crosswise/arewise water rates for different agro-climatic zones;

(d) the organisational measures including mechanism for efficient recovery of economic water rates; and

(e) operating controls for ensuring levy of appropriates irrigation water rates by the States.

(iii) To evolve a rational water rate structure for both surface and ground water to promote conjunctive use.

(iv) To review the present status of maintenance of irrigation projects indifferent States.

(v) To review the norms of maintenance as recommended by earlier Committees and different Finance Commissions.

(vi) To suggest the norms for fixing maintenance charges including stipulating the upper ceiling per hectare of command for the expenditure on staff establishment for various irrigation systems in different States.

Food Processing Industries in Kerala.

7104. SHRI ANJALOSE: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of Kerala to set up food processing industries in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI GIRDHAR GOMANGO): (a) to (c). Two proposals received for assistance under the Plan Schemes of this Ministry for 1991-92 from the Government of Kerala for setting up of a pineapple processing unit and a cold chain for fisheries, have been approved and funds released. A proposal for utilisation of trash fish was also received on which action has been initiated. a proposal for assistance from the EEC for

the Kerala Integrated Horticulture Development Programme has already been finalised and a contract has been entered into with the EEC.

Regularisation of Technician in CGWPRS

7105. SHRI RAMCHANDRA GHANGARE; Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of technician and Graduate Grade apprentices is the Central Government Water and Power Research Station at Khadakwasla in Pune District in 1989, 1990 and 1991;

(b) the number out of them absorbed in regular service; and

(c) the measures being taken absorb those remaining apprentices the research station?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) The number of technicians and graduate grade apprentices in the Central Water and Power Research Station. Khadakwasla, District Pune, in the year 1989, stood at 3 and 2 respectively. In the year 1990, there had been no technician but the Research Station had engaged 2 graduate grade apprentices during the year. In the year 1991, the Research Station had 4 technicians and 1 graduate grade apprentice.

(b)and (c). The existing rules in the Research Station do not permit any such absorption in regular service. However, subject to eligibility conditions, they may apply for the direct recruitment posts, whenever advertised.

Transfer of Power network to NPIC Project

7106. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to transfer all transmission network of power sector in the country to the National Power Transmission Corporation;

(b), if so, the rational behind such transfer; and

(c) the role of the C.E.A if any, in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) The work relating transmission network will be taken over by National Power Transmission corporation (NPTC) in a phased manner from National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd., National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Ltd., Neyveli Lignite Corporation, Damodar Valley Corporation, North-Eastern Electric Power Corporation, Tehri Hydro Development Corporation, Nathpa-Jhakri Power Corporation, Bhakra Beas Management Board, Central Electricity Authority etc.

(b) The objective behind setting up of the NPTC is that the organisatiion would:

(i) help in pooling all the expertise in this field under one Central Organisation,

(ii) bring about economies of scale in the design, construction, maintenance and operation of EHV lines.

(iii) solve coordination problems that are presently encountered,

(iv) ensure better integrated grid operations and delivery of Central share of power from various Central Generating Stations to the